

Appl. No. 09/590,586
Response Dated Aug. 6, 2003
Reply to Office Action of 6/9/03

Claim Amendments

This listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (Cancelled)

Claim 2 (Previously Presented) A pipe joint comprising a male ⁽¹⁰⁾ first pipe portion, a female second ⁽¹²⁾ pipe portion, a compression ⁽¹¹⁾ gland having a ⁽⁷¹⁾ lip located at an inner diameter of the gland disposed at least partially within the second pipe portion, and a restraining ⁽²⁾ gasket within in the second pipe portion and between the first pipe portion and the second pipe portion, said gasket further comprising:

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- a) a compressible body having a spigot-facing surface, a recess seat-facing surface, and a gland-facing surface; and
 - b) a locking member, said member having a tooth and a back portion at least partially embedded within the compressible body, wherein at least a portion of the tooth is positioned to engage the first pipe portion, wherein said locking member is adapted to pivot in response to a force tending to separate the first pipe portion from the second pipe portion, and wherein said locking member is adapted to resist movement between said first pipe portion and said compression gland in the event of such force.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented) A pipe joint comprising a male first pipe portion, a female second pipe portion, and a restraining gasket, said gasket further comprising:

- a) a compressible body having a spigot-facing surface, a recess seat-facing surface, and a gland-facing surface; and
- b) a locking member, said member having a tooth and a back portion at least partially embedded within the compressible body, wherein at least a portion of the tooth is positioned to engage the first pipe portion,

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wherein said locking member is adapted to adopt a secured relationship with the first pipe portion upon compression of a gland against said gland-facing surface and wherein further said locking member is adapted to non-compressibly resist movement of said first pipe portion relative to said gland by transferring a first portion of an extractive force to said gland and a second portion of such force to the second pipe portion, which first portion and second portion are each of a magnitude less than the magnitude of the extractive force.

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Claim 4 (Previously Presented) A pipe joint as in Claim 2, wherein said back portion is disposed in proximity to said gland-facing surface and to said second pipe portion.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented) A pipe joint as in claim 4, wherein said back portion is adapted to interpose between the lip of said gland and the second pipe portion.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented) A pipe joint as in Claim 2, wherein said locking member has a facing elbow disposed in proximity to said gland-facing surface.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented) A pipe joint as in Claim 2, wherein said locking member has a facing elbow, and an upper protrusion; said facing elbow being disposed in proximity to said gland-facing surface, and said upper protrusion being disposed in proximity to said recess seat facing surface.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented) A pipe joint as in Claim 7, wherein said facing elbow and said upper protrusion are points on a curve.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented) A pipe joint as in Claim 7, wherein said facing elbow is adapted to resistively contact said compression gland.

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Claim 10 (Previously Presented) A pipe joint as in Claim 9, wherein said upper protrusion is adapted to resistively contact said second pipe portion.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented) A pipe joint as in Claim 2, further comprising a plurality of density regions, wherein said regions are adapted to influence the movement of said locking member.

Claim 12 (Cancelled)

Claims 13-15 (Cancelled)

Claim 16 (Currently Amended) A method for preventing the disengagement of pipe lengths in a standard mechanical joint comprising:

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- a) inserting a spigot end of a first pipe length into a bell end of a second pipe length;
 - b) placing a gasket within the bell end and around the spigot end, said gasket comprising a compressible body and a locking member;
 - c) affixing a compression gland to the bell end ~~and partially within the bell end~~, in a manner that a lip of the gland extends partially within the bell end and compresses the gasket to form a fluid seal; wherein said locking member is positioned such that upon a force tending to move the gland relative to the spigot end, said locking member rotates and directs a portion of the force counter to the bell end.